

and C to cover such birds who occupy large nesting territories within which courtship, copulation and nesting takes place but which do not furnish most of the food.

(ii) Occupies and defends it after the pair's selection of the nesting site, employs warning note, pursuit and assault as the chief means of defence. Defends it mainly for nesting site, nest, eggs and brood only. The main functions of the territory in *Corvus splendens* is to afford protection to nest, eggs and young, that is, the functions proposed by Nice (1933), Mayr (1935), Lack (1935), Noble (1939) and Tinbergen (1939).

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
WESTERN REGIONAL STATION,
1182/2, F. C. ROAD,
POONA-5,
November 16, 1967.

B. S. LAMBA

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12. THE BROWN FLYCATCHER, *MUSCICAPA LATIROSTRIS* RAFFLES IN KUTCH

Once again I had the good luck to come across a new bird in Kutch and that too in the same place where I have seen most of the other new birds; the grounds of Vijaya Vilas Palace, Mandvi. On November 21 and 22, 1967, I saw the Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris* Raffles) in the garden which surrounds the palace. On both occasions only one bird was observed. At first glance an inexperienced observer could easily mistake it for the Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva* Bechstein) a regular winter visitor in Kutch which is met with in all suitable localities. Obviously the Brown Flycatcher is an extremely rare visitor in this part of the country. Dharmakumarsinhji (BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA; 428) does not

make any reference to its occurrence in Saurashtra but says it was recorded by Littledale at Saran (Dungarpur State, now in Rajasthan) and that it is presumably resident in the Dangs (Gujarat). It appears that, at least up to the time the BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA was published, this bird does not seem to have been firmly recorded in Saurashtra.

JUBILEE GROUND,
BHUJ, KUTCH,
April 12, 1968.

M. K. HIMMATSINHJI

13. NEW WINTERING LOCALITY OF THE SPOTTED
BUSH WARBLER *BRADYPTERUS THORACICUS*
(BLYTH)

On 24 November 1967 whilst netting migratory birds in the phragmites reed beds at Nalbani, North Salt Lakes, Calcutta, with Mr. S. S. Saha & Mr. D. K. Ghosal, a Spotted Bush Warbler, *Bradypterus thoracicus* (Blyth) was collected. It is of interest that this constitutes the first Calcutta area record and appears to be the only record of the species' occurrence away from the Himalayan foothills of Sylhet, E. Pakistan which Ripley in his SYNOPSIS states to be its winter range. The bird was therefore inexplicably some 300 miles south of its usual wintering areas.

The Spotted Bush Warbler is a great skulker and the specimen was virtually pushed into the net by cheyving it along with the hands from only two or three feet away. This may account for its not having been collected before although netting has been carried out fairly regularly in this area since 1962.

Since the above record, two other specimens have been caught at the same locality (on 28 January 1968) indicating that the species is not necessarily scarce. On no occasion, however, has the bird been observed in the field prior to its being caught in the nets.

Measurements (in mm.) of the birds collected and now in the Indian Museum, Calcutta, are as follows:—

24.xii.67 1 ♂, wing 54, tail 54, bill 14. Primaries 2nd=10th

26.i.68 1 ♂, wing 52.5, tail 49.5, bill 14. Wing tip—2—

Wing-tip damaged.

26.i.68 1 ♂, wing 51.3, tail 52. bill 13.5. Primaries 2nd=11th.

(on the latter two birds the spots on the chest are more pronounced).

I wish to record my appreciation for the help of Dr. B. Biswas of the Zoological Survey of India, India Museum, Calcutta, for his confirming the identification of the above specimens,